

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☐ no ☒

Property Name: Jennings H. Mitchell & Son, Inc. Inventory Number: B-5252
Address: 212 N. Bentalou Street Historic district: yes ☒ no ☐
City: Baltimore Zip Code: 21223 County: Baltimore City
USGS Quadrangle(s): Baltimore West
Property Owner: Jennings H. Mitchell & Son, Inc. Tax Account ID Number: _____
Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 0000 Tax Map Number: 0020
Project: West Baltimore MARC Station Agency: Maryland Transit Administration
Agency Prepared By: John Milner Associates, Inc.
Preparer's Name: Sarah Traum Date Prepared: 7/13/2012
Documentation is presented in: Enoch Pratt Library Maryland Room; Baltimore City Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation (CHAP)
Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: _____ Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended ☐
Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G
Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:
Name of the District/Property: _____
Inventory Number: _____ Eligible: ☐ yes ☐ no ☐ Listed: ☐ yes ☐ no ☐
Site visit by MHT Staff ☐ yes ☒ no ☐ Name: _____ Date: _____

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

Architectural Description

The Jennings H. Mitchell & Son building is located at 212 North Bentalou Street in the West Baltimore area of Baltimore City. The property is bounded on the east by rowhouses lining North Bentalou Street. Light industrial and educational buildings are located south, north and west of this property. This building faces east towards North Bentalou Street. The building facade abuts the sidewalk with a paved parking area immediately north and west of the building.

The one-story tall Jennings H. Mitchell & Son building has little architectural ornament. It is constructed of concrete block faced with seven-course common bond brick. It stands on a concrete block foundation faced with rubble stone. The building has a flat roof with shallow parapet. The facade has a single opening for the double entry doors. This entry has a simple rubble stone surround. Centered above the entry is JHM Jennings H. Mitchell & Son, Inc. There are also nine window and door openings on the facade that are currently filled with brick. The building is eleven bays deep. The window and door openings on the side elevations have been filled in with concrete block, but retain their rowlock brick lintels. An interior brick chimney rises through the roof near the northeast corner of the building.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

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MHT Comments:

John Milner
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

B. Milner
Reviewer, National Register Program

9/11/12
Date

9/11/12
Date

201203704

Historic Context

The core of the building at 212 North Bentalou Street was built in 1940 as a light manufacturing facility and commercial building (MD SDAT 2012). The earliest map evidence for a building at this location is the 1951 Sanborn map, which shows the present building with a similarly sized wing to the rear. The present building consists only of the eastern portion shown on this map. The rear wing is no longer extant. The eastern portion of this building is named as a printing ink manufacturer on the 1951 map, while the rear wing is a grocery warehouse. Offices are shown in the northeastern corner of the building. Both portions of the building are labeled as having concrete floors, wood posts, skylights, and made of cinder block faced with brick (Sanborn 1951). This map depiction is confirmed by the 1952 city directory, which is the first listing for a building at this location. This directory lists the Curtiss Candy Co. and Chas. O. Monk (printers' ink) as the occupants of 212 North Bentalou Street (C&PT 1950).

The Curtiss Candy Company was founded in Chicago in 1916. It's most famous product is the Baby Ruth. A 1952 classified ad for a salesman for the Curtiss Candy Company at this location lists the Baby Ruth as one of the candies offered by the company (Baltimore Sun 1953:29). The Curtiss Candy Company is no longer listed as an occupant of 212 North Bentalou Street after the 1952 city directory. The 1954 through 1972 directories list only printers' ink manufacturers, including Charles O. Monk, Hawley-Monk, and Borden Chemical Company (C&PT 1954-1972). A November 1970 Baltimore Sun article states that the Borden printing ink plant would soon be moving from 212 North Bentalou Street to an Odenton industrial park (Baltimore Sun 1970:F5). In 1981 Publication Press, located immediately south of this building, at 200 North Bentalou Street, acquired 212 North Bentalou Street to expand their facilities. The building at 212 North Bentalou Street was refurbished to house the company's offices. At this time Publication Press, Inc. was described as employing 200 people and specializing in hardbound and paperback books, and government catalogs and journals (Baltimore Sun 1981:C8).

The 1985 Baltimore directory lists Jennings H. Mitchell & Son, plasters, as the occupants of 212 North Bentalou Street (Stewart 1985). The same firm occupies the building today. Jennings H. Mitchell & Son was founded in 1929 specializing in plain and ornamental plaster. Its offerings have expanded to include many other construction specialties (Jennings H. Mitchell & Son 2012).

Significance Evaluation

The Jennings H. Mitchell & Son building was evaluated for significance under the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Criteria A, B, and C, using the guidelines set forth in the National Register Bulletin How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation. This property was not evaluated under Criterion D as part of the present assessment.

The Jennings H. Mitchell & Son building was built in 1940 as a light industrial and commercial building. It continues to serve this function today. This building reflects the commercial growth of Baltimore in the mid-twentieth century, but lacks a significant association with mid-twentieth century commercial development in the City of Baltimore. Therefore, this property is not eligible under Criterion A.

Research has not shown that the property is associated with the lives of individuals significant in the past. Therefore, this property is not eligible under Criterion B.

The Jennings H. Mitchell & Son building was built in 1940 as a vernacular, commercial building. The rectangular form, one-story height, masonry construction, and flat roof reflect this original purpose. The renovation of the façade, including infill of window

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Eligibility not recommended _____

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Date_____
Reviewer, National Register Program_____
Date

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and door openings, as well as the demolition of the rear wing, are significant losses of integrity. This property is not distinctive enough to be considered a true representative of a particular type, period, or method of construction. This building does not possess high artistic values. Therefore, this property is not eligible under Criterion C.

Based on the evaluated criteria, the Jennings H. Mitchell & Son building is not eligible for listing in the NRHP.

Works Consulted

Baltimore Sun

1952 Salesman Baltimore Sun. February 4: 29.

1970 Firm Moving Ink Plant to Odenton. Baltimore Sun. November 15: F5.

1981 Remodeling Under Way. Baltimore Sun. September 16: C8.

Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company of Maryland (C&PT)

1950 City of Baltimore Directory. Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company of Maryland. Baltimore, MD.

1952 City of Baltimore Directory. Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company of Maryland. Baltimore, MD.

1954 City of Baltimore Directory. Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company of Maryland. Baltimore, MD.

1956 City of Baltimore Directory. Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company of Maryland. Baltimore, MD.

1958 City of Baltimore Directory. Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company of Maryland. Baltimore, MD.

1960 City of Baltimore Directory. Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company of Maryland. Baltimore, MD.

1961 City of Baltimore Directory. Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company of Maryland. Baltimore, MD.

1962 City of Baltimore Directory. Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company of Maryland. Baltimore, MD.

1964 City of Baltimore Directory. Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company of Maryland. Baltimore, MD.

1966 City of Baltimore Directory. Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company of Maryland. Baltimore, MD.

1972 City of Baltimore Directory. Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company of Maryland. Baltimore, MD.

Jennings H. Mitchell & Son

2012 Company History. http://www.jenningsmitchell.com/company_history.htm. Accessed July 2, 2012.

Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation (MD SDAT)

2012 Baltimore City, Real Property Database.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

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http://sdatcert3.resiusa.org/rp_rewrite/searchtype.aspx?County=03&SearchType=street. Accessed July 2, 2012.

Sanborn Company

1951 Fire Insurance maps. 1914 edition updated 1951.

Stewart Directories

1985 Baltimore City Criss-Cross Directory. Stewart Directories, Baltimore, MD.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

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MHT Comments:

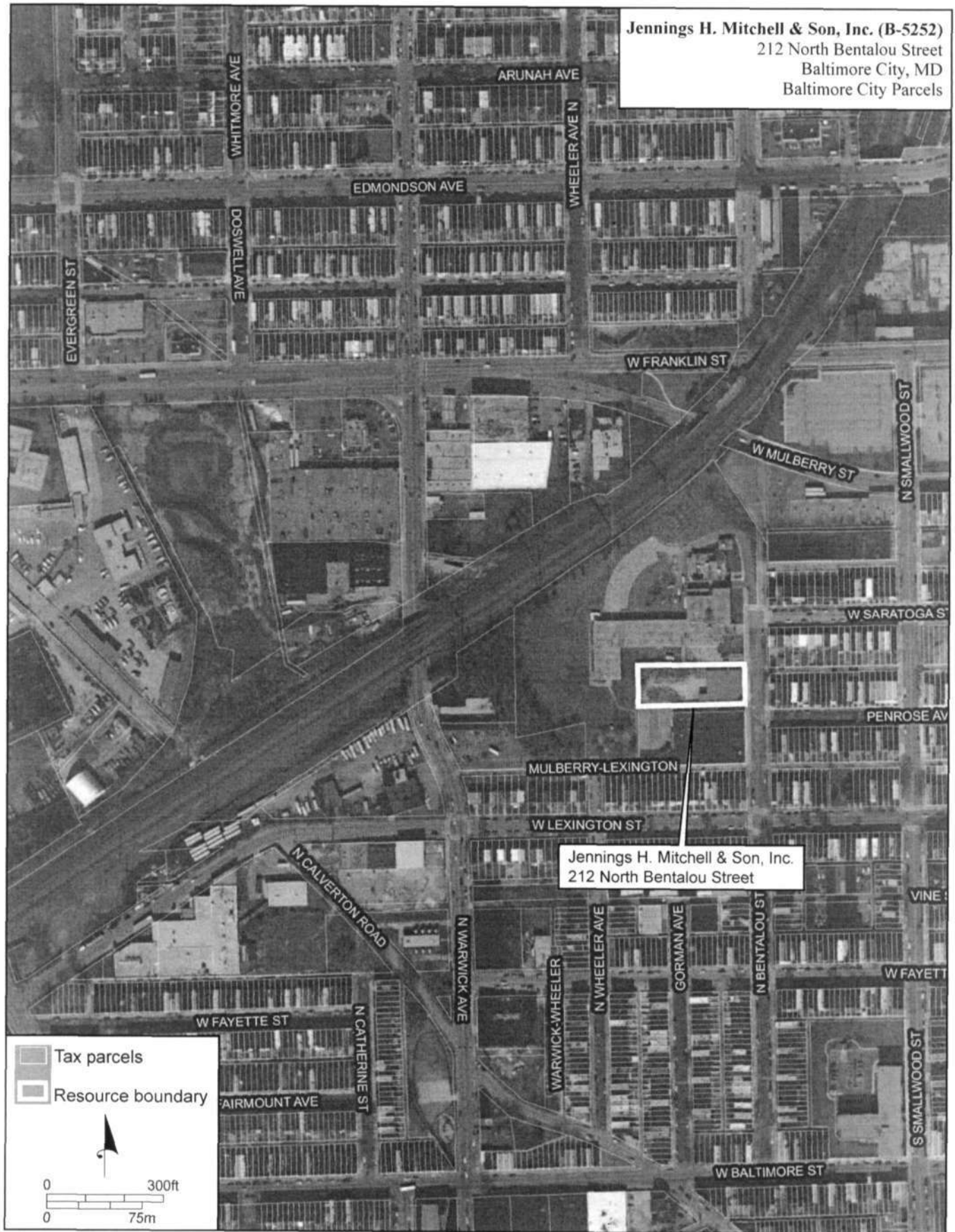
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

Reviewer, National Register Program

Date

Jennings H. Mitchell & Son, Inc. (B-5252)
212 North Bentalou Street
Baltimore City, MD
Baltimore City Parcels



Jennings H. Mitchell & Son, Inc. (B-5252)
212 North Bentalou Street
Baltimore City, MD
USGS Baltimore West Quad, 1974



PHOTO LOG

B-5252, Jennings H. Mitchell & Son, Inc., 212 North Bentalou Street

B-5252_2012-06-05_01

East and north elevations, view to southwest

B-5252_2012-06-05_02

East elevation, view to northwest

B-5252_2012-06-05_03

South elevation, view to west-northwest

HP Viverra ink on HP glossy premium plus photo paper. CD-R Gold.



B-5252

JENNINGS H. MITCHELL & SON, INC, 212 N BENTLEY STREET

CITY OF BALTIMORE, MD

C. CLARK

JUNE 5, 2012

MD SHDO

EAST AND NORTH ELEVATIONS VIEW TO SOUTHWEST

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B-5252

JENNINGS H MITCHELL & SON INC 212 N BENTLEY STREET

CITY OF BALTIMORE MD

C. CLARK

JUNE 5, 2012

MD SHPO

EAST ELEVATION VIEW TO NORTH WEST

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WITH THANKSGIVING, AND
INTO HIS COURTS WITH
PRAISE...

B-5252

JENNINGS H MITCHELL & SON, INC., 212 N BENTLEY STREET

CITY OF BALTIMORE, MD

C. CLARK

JUNE 5, 2012

MD SHPO

SOUTH ELEVATION VIEW TO WEST-NORTH WEST

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